

REMARKS

Claims 1-11 have been examined. Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), and claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a). Also, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-6 and 10-11 are allowed.

Preliminary Matters

Applicant has amended pg. 4 of the specification to correct a minor error.

The Examiner has not acknowledged the drawings filed on November 16, 2000. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to indicate, in the next Office Action, whether the drawings are acceptable.

In addition, the Examiner has not acknowledged Applicant's claim for foreign priority or receipt of the priority document. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to acknowledge, in the next Office Action, the claim for foreign priority by checking the appropriate boxes under item #12 of the Office Action Summary.

Applicant has made minor amendments to claims 2, 3, 4, 7, 8 and 9 merely for clarification purposes. Such amendments are not made in view of the prior art and do not narrow the scope of the respective claims.

Newly Added Claims

Applicant has added new claims 12-18 to provide more varied protection of the present invention. Applicant submits that claims 12, 13 and 17 are patentable for at least analogous

reasons as claims 1 and 10. Further, Applicant submits that claims 14, 15, 16 and 18 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency on claims 1, 7, 8 and 17.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 7-8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Application No. 5,097,518 to Scott et al. (“Scott”).

A. Claim 7

Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable over the cited reference. For example, in the reduction print process, claim 7 recites, “reducing the image data” and “compressing the reduced image data and storing the compressed data”. Accordingly, the image data is reduced before being compressed and stored.

The Examiner maintains that Scott discloses the above features. In particular, the Examiner refers to col. 22, line 42-col. 23, line 39. The cited portion refers to Fig. 7 of the reference. As shown in Fig. 7, it appears that image data is compressed/decompressed by the processor 320 prior to entering the scaler 335 for reduction. There is no disclosure that the reduced data, i.e. data reduced in scaler 335, is then compressed again and stored, as recited in claim 7 (i.e. “compressing the reduced image data and storing the compressed data”).

Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 7 is patentable over the cited reference.

B. Claim 8

Since claim 8 contains features that are analogous to the features recited in claim 7, Applicant submits that such claim is patentable for at least analogous reasons as presented above.

Rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Scott in view of JP 04220366 to Saito (“Saito”). However, since claim 9 is dependent upon claim 8, and Saito fails to cure the deficient teachings of Scott, in regard to claim 8, Applicant submits that claim 9 is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency.

Allowable Subject Matter

As stated above, the Examiner has indicated that claims 1-6, 10 and 11 are allowed.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,



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